



502536

June 12, 1978

TO: William Turney, Chief
Bureau of Environmental Protection

FROM: Jim Miller, Water Quality Specialist
Water Quality Division *Jim*

SUBJECT: Alleged Disposal of Hazardous Materials at the Kent County
Landfill.

Summary

Between April 17 and May 3, 1978 nonhazardous solid material consisting of crushed empty barrels, wooden pallets and slightly contaminated sand from the Story cleanup was deposited in the Kent County Landfill in Plainfield Township.

Persons from the Resource Recovery Division, Kent County Health Department and Kent County Department of Public Works were contacted relative to this matter. No special authorization was sought for this disposal option because the solid material in question was not of a hazardous nature. Special emphasis should be given to the fact that no chemical waste per se was transported to the Kent County landfill as a consequence of this cleanup. All persons contacted relative to this site spoke highly of the protection of groundwater at this facility. All persons contacted further mentioned the nonhazardous permit stipulation. Accordingly, a great deal of care was taken to insure that hazardous or potentially hazardous material resulting from this cleanup was not transported to the Kent County landfill.

In early April 1978, I contacted both Ron Mosier and Len Zulawski relative to the Kent County landfill in Plainfield Township. These individuals indicated the fill had acceptable geology for nonhazardous solid waste, but both informed me of the permit limitation which forbid disposal of hazardous waste at that site. I was referred to the Health Department who in turn referred me to Mr. Dave Despres of the Kent County Department of Public Works. Mr. Despres also informed me of the nonhazardous requirements and discussed the leachate collection system with me at great length. Despres indicated that the leachate would be discharged to a sanitary sewer for further treatment when and if any contamination from refuse disposal was detected. I visited the site and although I never asked to see the operator's license, the high volume of traffic led me to assume that the operation of this landfill was going on with the full knowledge of all State and local officials. I was impressed with the clean housekeeping employed by the operators and examined a lined pond which I was told contained leachate water. I observed several aquatic insects in this clear water and detected no odor.

After further discussions with Dave Despres the first load of crushed empty barrels was delivered to the site April 17, 1978. Since I was convinced and remained convinced that the solid material in question was not hazardous and presents absolutely no threat to the groundwater beyond that presented by ordinary refuse I saw no need to seek any special authorization.

On April 26, I again contacted Mr. Despres relative to disposing of some incidentally contaminated sand. The sand in question was extremely dry and only trace amounts of organic solvents such as toluene and xylene were detected by gas chromatography. According to Dr. Bedford of our Laboratory that section does not ordinarily attempt to quantify results of this nature but stated off the record that the trace concentrations would most likely be between 1 and 10 milligrams per kilogram or parts per million. As a matter of fact, based on our discussions, Mr. Despres felt that the landfill would be able to use the material for temporary cover. I discussed the situation with Dave Despres and was convinced and remain convinced that this material was not hazardous and presents no threat to the waters of the State beyond that presented by disposal of ordinary refuse. Accordingly, the sand was disposed of at the Kent County Landfill beginning April 27, 1978. No material of any nature was transported to the Kent County Landfill after May 3, 1978.

Please contact me if you are in need of further information relative to this matter.

tkr

cc: D. Dennis
R. Courchaine
W. Denniston
F. Kellow
L. Zulewski
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